

November 26, 1963

Mr. J. E. Curry
Chief of Police

Sir:

I arrived at the City Hall, Sunday morning, November 24, 1963, at approximately 9:25 A. M. I went to the Police Assembly Room in the basement and reported in to Lt. B. C. Merrell, and asked him where Captain Arnett was. Lt. Merrell informed me that, Captain Arnett and all of the Reserves who had been there were taken into the basement parking area by Sgt. P. T. Deen to search it.

I then went to the basement parking area and reported to Captain Arnett who was standing about 15 feet behind two television cameras that were set up in the first two parking stalls, facing the entranceway into the jail hallway. Reserve Officer G. E. Worley was standing beside Captain Arnett. I observed Reserve Lt. D. T. Suits standing at the bottom of the ramp, leading into the parking area. I also noticed Reserve Patrolman W. J. Newman standing at the extreme south end of the parking area. A radio patrol officer was standing in front of the elevators that are on the center east side of the parking area. I asked Captain Arnett what the situation was, and he told me that they had just finished searching the basement under the direction of Sgt. P. T. Deen, and they had been instructed to stay in the basement area and keep people out of the parking area.

Captain Talbot came by and asked if the air conditioning vents had been checked and Sgt. J. R. Hopkins (Reserve) walked up at this time and said that he had just finished checking them. I stayed with Captain Arnett to help in coordinating the assignments requested of the Reserves.

Two conferences were held by the regular officers in the parking area, but we were not asked to listen in or not told what was going on. After these conferences, the regular officers left the basement area with shotguns.

Sgt. Deen requested that we send a man to Commerce and Pearl to work the traffic as a signal light was stuck at this location. I sent Patrolman G. E. Worley to work this.

A request was made that we send men to the south ramp entrance to move the crowd that had gathered there across the street to the south sidewalk and hold them there. I made several trips to and from the assembly room to get reserves as they reported in to Lt. Merrell to help handle this crowd. I sent Reserve Sgt. Hopkins up to the Commerce Street side to supervise the operation and to keep me informed of the situation there. A request was made that a Reserve Officer be placed in the hall in front of the jail office window to help the regular officer there check people out. Reserve Officer A. B. Craig was assigned to this location.

On several occasions, and from time to time, I observed men in plain clothes coming down the ramps and going into the hall in front of the jail. I assumed that these were press personnel and I did not take any special note, because of the regular officers that were supposed to check everyone out at the top of the ramps.

Much shuffling of cars took place in the parking area. I observed the paddy wagon come down the north ramp with Patrolman Lewis driving. I saw Sgt. Deen stop him and search the back of the wagon and then permit Lewis to go on into the parking area.

I observed squad cars being lined up in the north and south sides of the basement parking area. I observed Sgt. Steele and Reserve Patrolman J. H. Harrison leave the basement area in a squad car and drive out the South Ramp.

I then observed Chief Batchelor get into his car and leave by the South Ramp. I then observed the Armored car being backed into the South Ramp. Some men in plain clothes got into the back, a bottle fell out, and I saw one of the men in plain clothes picking up the glass from the ramp. I observed Sgt. Deen get into the Armored car and then come out. About this time, two men came into the outer jail hall and told the press personnel that they should stand along the north wall of the jail hall and along the east railing of the ramp, so they would all be able to get pictures without bunching up.

Two plain cars were brought out of the parking area and parked on the ramp headed south. I assisted in getting the cars through the crowd that was blocking the entrance to the parking area. I then moved several people who I assumed were press people away from the west wall of the south ramp over to the east side, and then stood by the west wall approximately one foot south of the jail hall. I heard a commotion and glanced to my left; I saw two plainclothesmen with a man between them coming toward the ramp; I looked back to my front and right to see what the press people were doing, and I heard what I thought was a flashbulb exploding. I looked back to my left and saw a man with a gun pointed at the midsection of the man the two plainclothesmen had between them.

I immediately jumped on the man, along with Reserve Captain Arnett and Reserve Sgt. K. H. Croy, and several other men. When the man was subdued, I heard some shout, "No One Out! No One Out!" I joined hands with Reserve Patrolman J. D. Brodway and kept the people from going into the jail hall. Captain Arnett and Reserve Sgt. Croy joined us.

We stayed in this position until the O'Neal ambulance came and they took Oswald off to the hospital. A man in plain clothes then came out and told the press people that they would be admitted to the building proper by press card. We then went inside the building to the assembly room to be assigned where needed.

Several men were sent to various locations to seal off the building entrances and several were sent to work traffic around the city hall. We were moved from the assembly room so the press could use it and set up our C. P. on the second floor in the Planning Commission room.

Subject: Statement of Lt. B. C. McCoy, Dallas Police Reserve

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To my knowledge, I had never seen nor met the subject Ruby before I saw him with the gun in his hand at the time of the shooting of Oswald.

Respectfully,

Ben C. McCoy
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Lieutenant
Dallas Police Reserve

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